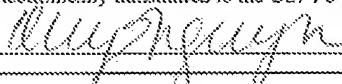


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: May 30, 2002

Signature: 

(Quyen Nguyen)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,465  
Confirmation No.: 6106  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENER  
Examiner: G. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-captioned application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

All of the listed documents are US patents or US patent publications. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)ii, copies of the listed documents are not provided herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance. The fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is submitted herewith.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

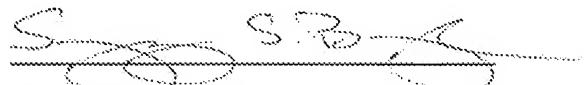
The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete

search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the event the appropriate fee and/or petition is not filed herewith and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3973 referencing Attorney Docket No.

LAUFNZ00200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/798,465
				Filing Date	March 11, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Michael D. LAUFER et al.
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	G. Dawson
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	LAUFNZ00200

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>2</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
1.	US 4,235,238		11-26-1980	Ogiu et al.	
2.	US 5,980,524		11-09-1999	Justin et al.	
3.	US 6,287,323		09-11-2001	Hammerslag	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>2</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>4</sup> -Number <sup>5</sup> -Kind Code <sup>6</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
					T <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>4</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>2</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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